



JULY 06 INTERPRETIVE CALENDAR

PURGATORY CHASM STATE RESERVATION

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Chasm Tour 4-5
2 History Time 1-2 Chasm Tour 4-5	3	4	5	6 Hiking Naturally 4-5:30	7 Forests & Parks on Wheels 1-4 Caving 4-5	8 Chasm Tour 4-5
9 Words from the Wild 1-2 Chasm Tour 4-5	10	11	12	13 Hiking Naturally 4-5:30	14 Caving 4-5	15 Jr. Rangers 1-3 Chasm Tour 4-5
16 History Time 1-2 Chasm Tour 4-5	17	18	19	20 9 Hiking Naturally 4-5:30	21 Caving 4-5	22 Jr. Rangers 1-3 Chasm Tour 4-5
23 Words from the Wild 1-2	24	25	26	27 Hiking Naturally 4-5:30	28 Caving 4-5	29 Jr. Rangers 1-3 Chasm Tour 4-5
30 History Time 1-2 Chasm Tour 4-5	31					

Park Interpreter: Nicole

Park Phone Number: 508-234-3733



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Description of Programs and Events:

Chasm Tour

Discover the mysteries of Purgatory Chasm. How was it formed? How did places such as “Lover’s Leap” and “Devil’s Pulpit” get their names? The interpreter will take visitors on a hike through the chasm while discussing the history, ecology, geology, and wildlife of this unique formation. The tour is suitable for families and anyone who is physically able to withstand a fairly strenuous hike.

Junior Rangers

Junior Rangers in July will be for youth 6-8 years-old and will center around the theme “Land Stewards”. Youth will take part in such activities as “Tredding Lightly”, “Ethi-Thinking”, “Look and See”, and “First Impression”. The activities will be designed to peak their curiosity in the natural environment while helping them learn to be responsible stewards of the land.

Forests and Parks on Wheels

The Department of Conservation’s “Forests and Parks on Wheels” van and staff will lead environmental education games. For example, participants playing “Eco-Jeopardy” will play a quiz game with such categories as water use, aquatic species, pollution, and being stewards of land and water. The games are hands on, interactive, and engaging. Participants will learn about bio-diversity, forest ecology, watersheds, and wetlands. These activities are appropriate for 4th through 8th graders and their parents. Parents must accompany children.

History Time

Meet at the pavilion to talk about the history of Purgatory Chasm and the surrounding area. Unique photos and insight will be shared. Find out how the hurricane of 1938 forever changed the chasm and surrounding forest. Learn about the people who made sure the chasm would be here for future generations to see. Discover how South Northbridge became Whitinsville and how the Whitin family left their mark on central Massachusetts. The tour is suitable for anyone interested in history and the chasm. This will be a sit down activity at the pavilion so it will be especially accessible for those who would have difficulty with a strenuous hike.



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Hiking Naturally

Hike through the chasm and surrounding woods in the park while learning how to be good stewards of the land, identify different types of plants, trees, animals, and more. Find out why so many of the boulder formations look like “hamburgers on a bun”. Each week will have a different theme suitable for families such as “ABC Hike”, “Natural/Unnatural Hike”, and “Sensory Hike”. The hike is suitable for individuals, families, and anyone able to withstand a hike of moderate difficulty.

Caving

Learn how to explore the caves of Purgatory Chasm safely for maximum enjoyment. Find out what to do if you see a bat, learn about the different kinds of caves, and what type of equipment to bring with you when “splunking”. Get a chance to spend some time in a cave at Purgatory Chasm. This activity is suitable for families, individuals, and anyone interested in the topic.

Words from the Wild

Be inspired by the writings of naturalists such as Thoreau, Muir, and others. Take a short hike while carefully observing the unique natural surroundings of the chasm and forest. Practice writing poems or prose and learn some tricks for getting started. Talk about journaling, sketching, and other ways of recording your experiences in nature for maximum enjoyment. Experiment with different mediums such as charcoal, ink, pencil, or colored pencil. This activity is appropriate for adolescents to adults. It is a good activity for older adults and individuals with disabilities.